

From the Pastor.....

My Country 'Tis of Thee

As you probably know this Sunday, July 1st we will celebrate together our Independence as a nation and our freedom we have in Christ. We will do this with patriotic songs, prayers for our leaders, pledges and coming to the Lord's table to remember His sacrifice that bought our freedom from sin and self. I also hope we sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," one of my personal favorite national hymns. There's a story that accompanies the writing of this moving hymn. It was written by Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist clergyman and was first sung in his church in Boston, MA. Ever since then it has been sung deep into the hearts of free people everywhere.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Harvard classmate of Smith, attributes the genius of this great hymn to its very first word, "my," a personal possessive pronoun that instantly strikes a silver chord in every patriot's heart. "MY country 'Tis of Thee, that little pronoun did it all, and will do it," said Holmes, brilliant poet and keenest wit of his generation. "Why couldn't any of the rest of us thought of that? That puts America in the hearts of people, and because of it Sam Smith will live when Longfellow and Whittier and all the rest of us have gone onto oblivion."

Holmes was revealing a great truth. God is like that. There are many people who know Him only in a remote, objective, impersonal sense. They acknowledge Him as Creator, and admit that the world offers abundant proof of a Master Workman. But they have never acquainted themselves with Him so they can say, MY God! We need to follow the example of Thomas in the New Testament. When confronted with the realization that Jesus was the risen Messiah, he was able to say, "MY Lord and MY God."

On a personal note.....I wanted to update all of you on Terri's condition and cancer journey. She finished the initial surgeries, chemotherapy treatments, and radiation treatments at the end of last year. After several months of healing and completing her hormonal infusions last month, she is now scheduled for surgery on July 9th in order to prepare her for reconstruction surgery which will take place in the September/October time frame. As we have said in the past, your prayers and various visible means of encouragement have sustained us through this difficult process. We are very grateful for your continued support and ask for your prayers as we enter this last phase of treatment.

Some of you have asked if Terri and I are taking any vacation time this summer. The answer is yes. We will be gone for one Sunday on August 12th and we will be heading to Chicago's Wrigley Field to catch a 3 game series with the Washington Nationals during that weekend. We had planned this last year and due to Terri's illness and treatments we had to cancel. So, needless to say we are looking forward to seeing our beloved, "World Series Champions" Chicago Cubs!

New Sermon Series – "HEAVEN"

The artists "Mercy Me" had a hit song a few years ago entitled "I Can Only Imagine." This song which captured the hearts of both Christians and non-Christians alike spoke to our curiosity and wonderment of what Heaven will be like. Ever wonder why, because as the bible says, "God has put eternity in our hearts." Starting on July 8 and over the next several months, we will explore a place called HEAVEN using resources such as Randy Alcorn's book, "Heaven," commentaries, writings and of course the Holy Scriptures to help bring this eternity to light in a way that will surprise you, spark your imagination, and change how you live today.

Children's Ministry and Student Ministry Camps

Both our camps are scheduled for July 16-20. One is in Lynchburg, VA and the other is in Skycroft, MD. I will be visiting both of these camps and spending time with our children, students and volunteers. I can't wait. Consequently, I will not be in the office during that work week. However, I can be reached easily if necessary. Please pray for both of these camps.

Church Picnic

Don't forget our Church picnic and baptismal service at Pitts Pond on Sunday, August 19th. Our Sunday morning schedule will change in order to maximize our time at the picnic. The schedule will look like this:

- No FMC early service and no BG Café
- 9:30am – Sunday School
- 10:30 - Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 - Picnic at Pitts Pond

Art of Parenting Video Series

If you attended and liked the "Art of Marriage" series we had earlier this year, you're going to love this brand new companion series produced by Family Life. It follows the same format with 8 video sessions and a workbook for each attendee to enhance learning and discussion. The series will begin on Sunday, September 2nd from 10:00-11:15 am in the FMC. Once again we will extend our BG Café hours to provide refreshments during that time period. If you can't make the Sunday morning session, there will be an "encore" presentation each following Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Philathea Room. Cost is \$25. Sign up sheets will be made available in July.

God Bless America,
Pastor Frank



INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY
JULY 1, 2018

BOWLING GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
CELEBRATES OUR FREEDOM
AS A NATION AND IN CHRIST.

10 am – Sunday School
11 am – Combined Worship with communion, Sanctuary
12:30 pm - Potluck lucheon with hot dogs and
hamburgers provided by the Hospitality Committee

Please use the sign up sheet to indicate the number in your family that will be attending and if you are bringing a side dish, dessert or both.



Our WMU group prepared a meal for Wednesday night vacation Bible school. We fed about 100 children and many workers. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches chips, veggies to dip, watermelon, and dessert for later. As always, thanks to the help from Jean Satterwhite and Bonnie Gromovsky from hospitality, as well as many volunteer workers and parents.

WMU is partnering with the Caroline Family Practice Community Health Center (beside Rite Aid) this year to collect school supplies for the under served in our community. This is a Mission Project for our church to show our love to others who need our support. We are asked to contribute 30 backpacks and 300 packs of notebook paper by July 15. Other organizations will be involved also. The Community Health Center will have health information, health screenings, and health checks for children, as well as games and fun activities on July 31 from 3-6:00pm . A box and a collection basket will be provided in the family ministry center. Baskets under the bench and on the glass missions table in the back hall may also be used. Monetary donations may also be given to help with this event and given to Paulette Britt or Susie Hicks.

We are excited to hear about Ella Divelbliss' mission trip to Novgorod, Russia July 27-August 7, 2018. She will be partnering with a group from northern Virginia, and working with a pastor there. This program , the American Russian Christian Connection,(ARCC) works with children –introducing them to Christ for the first time. They will be able to enjoy worship and learn about God in a fun and loving atmosphere. This will also allow opportunity for family members to hear of the love of Jesus. Our group will be studying about some of the area where Ella will be witnessing to others and some facts about the people of this region. We hope that Ella will be able to share with us more about her mission trip to the Novgorod region in Russia at a later date. We will continue to pray for Ella and her group as they journey to this far away land. Please keep Ella's family in your prayers each day.



- 2 Terry Bullock
- 2 Kendall Divelbliss
- 2 Landyn Foltz
- 2 Erin Kube
- 2 Gary Meyer
- 3 Kourtney Sutherland
- 4 Betty Cooper
- 7 Sadie Farris
- 8 Dawn West
- 8 Kathrine Wright
- 9 Christian Campbell
- 11 Morgan Gaseman
- 11 Laura Richbourg
- 13 Erin Brown
- 13 Brianna DeLeon
- 14 Carroll Schools
- 16 Dean Flora
- 16 Kendall Thomas
- 17 Stephanie Sadler
- 18 Kitty Burke
- 18 Valerie Ercelebi
- 18 Will French
- 18 Cody Kidd
- 20 Madison Gentry
- 20 Barbara Lewis
- 22 Shelby Foltz
- 23 Brad Thomas
- 24 Debbie Pickett
- 24 Shannon Stepp
- 26 Hannah Kennedy
- 27 Kristen Kraynak
- 27 Jeff Sili
- 30 Eric Jackowski



Deacon of the Week:

JULY 1	Brad Thomas
8	Doug Farris
15	Charles Cushing
22	Sherry Brillhart
29	John Markham

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Danielle Cushing

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters— Karen Covington & Sabrina Farris

Flowers:

July 1	James Madison
July 8	Priscilla Shuler
July 15	Terry Bullock
July 22	Sallie Tidman
July 29	Margaret B. Lewis & Lillian Jones

Coffee & Snack Schedule:

July 1	none
July 8	Cathy Gray
July 15	Brad & Jenn Thomas
July 22	Bonnie Gromovsky
July 29	Danielle & Josh Cushing

Nursery Workers: *

1st— Carolyn Lane - **Jeanne Jordan** – Kyle Farris
 8th – Heather Smith - **Jenn Thomas** – Hannah Kennedy
 15th – **Jake Phelix** - Amy Phelix – Laney Thomas
 22nd – **Richard Gustard** –Naeda Gustard –Christianna Gray
 29th – **Ruth Judd** – Kamryn Gray

* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the individual in red is also responsible for the 11:00 service.